3 MARY'S "CONDITION": A RHETORIC OF MEDICAL ETHICS IN 19-TH CENTURY HOGTOWN

The Inquest of Mary Boyd, written and published by Dr. Duncan Campell in Toronto in 1868, addresses the circumstances surrounding the horrific death of Mary Boyd, a nineteen year old Irish servant-girl who had gone to work for the Campbell family in January of 1867. Since the texts and the following commentary are primarily concerned with the implications of the circumstances, the circumstances themselves might be stated immediately without detracting anything from their horror.

The first indication of there being anything the matter in the Campbell household is Mary's confession to Mrs. Campbell on April 17, 1868. She claims to be in love with her son Poole. On April 27, a Monday, Mary attempts suicide by flinging herself into the cistern. Later that day Dr. Campbell